

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated March 11, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

The indication that claims 3-6, 11-13, 16-19, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In response thereto, the subject matter of claim 11, and intervening claim 10, has been incorporated into parent claim 7, with minor modifications that are submitted not to affect the patentability of these claims. In a similar manner, the subject matter of claim 24, as well as intervening claims 23 and 21 has been incorporated into parent claim 20.

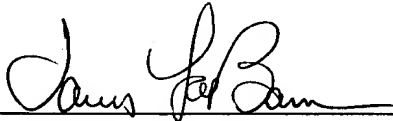
Allowable claim 3 is directed to one implementation of the technique for duplicating a data stream within the gateway, namely by means of unicast to multicast conversion. While this technique represents one preferred implementation, it is respectfully submitted that the broader concept that underlies the invention, namely the effective duplication of a data stream within a gateway to service second and subsequent requests for that data stream, is not disclosed, nor otherwise taught by the cited references. Pursuant thereto, claim 1 has been amended to recite this broader concept, without limiting the scope of protection to the specific embodiment set forth in claim 3. Claim 14 has been amended in a similar manner, to incorporate the broader concept that underlies the patentable subject matter of claim 16.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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By: 
James A. LaBarre
Registration No. 28,632

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620